

MEN PAUSE FOR THE CAUSE

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By Ifueko Diagbare

On January 28, 2010, the National Black Arts Festival partnered with Saks Fifth Avenue to present the 2010 “Men of Fine Art + Fashion”.



The wildly successful event held in the Men’s Store of Saks Fifth Avenue Atlanta was the perfect showcase and location where the swagger of men’s style was combined with many of the city’s most charming and fashion forward people. Over 250 people attended, doubling the anticipated fundraising goal for the evening. Grey Goose Vodka provided the cocktails and Frank Ski, celebrity radio and TV host of the “Frank and Wanda Morning Show” and deejay provided the entertainment.

Patron Party Chair Tanya Rodriguez (wife of Frank Ski) was a dynamic hostess during the evening as she floated around warmly greeting and chatting with all of the attendees. The evening was all things fabulous and energizing! It was a perfect prelude to the Fourth Annual Fine Art + Fashion on February 25, 2010.

The “Men of Fine Art + Fashion” honor was awarded to gentlemen whose unmistakable style and professional accomplishments are handsomely balanced and worthy of recognition. As part of the gifts received as honorees, show-stopping, classic looks from the Saks Fifth Avenue new and exclusive men’s collection were uniquely selected and styled by Allure Magazine’s own contributing style editor, Stan Mukoro of MUKORO|BESPOKE, who was one of the six honorees. The men wore their outfits and strutted their stuff while the crowd cheered them on.

Congratulations to all of the 2010 “Men of Fine Art + Fashion”:

John Eckel – Managing Partner of Real Max Corp., a real estate acquisition and investment firm. Former Senior Investment Banker and Principal with Banc of America Securities. John currently serves on the Board of The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center and is active with several other non-profit organizations. His passions also include fine wine and cuisine, fitness training, international travel and contemporary art. His favorite fashion quote: “Fashions fade, style is eternal”-Yves St. Laurent

Harold Dawson, Jr. – President and CEO of The Dawson Company, an Atlanta institution and one of the leading developers of mixed-use, transit-oriented development in the US. Just recently Harold became founding partner of Thompson Dawson Real Estate Services, a firm focused on fee-based services for public private partnerships and institutional clients. He has received numerous honors for his industry and civic contributions. He serves as a board member of the Woodruff Arts Center and the Westminster Schools. He is also a long time supporter of the National Black Arts Festival. Harold is the proud father of his three beautiful children. He is also a dedicated sportsman and athlete.

Alex Kinjo – Co-owner and creator of Atlanta’s own Kinjo Brothers Restaurants. Alex, brother of business partner and Executive Chef Chris Kinjo, is the visionary behind the interior designs and operations of MF Buckhead, MF Sushibar, Nam Restaurant and Atlanta’s late-night lounge, MF Room. He is an artist and designer and uses his extensive background in advertising and design to boost sales and exposure for their restaurants. Alex defines his signature look as mysterious and sophisticated, yet simple.

Allan Flamm – Allan is an international businessperson specializing in retail management, lifestyle and creative experience. Allan joined his family business in 1973, Flambro Imports, becoming president and CEO, making Flambro one of the top players in the collectibles market industry. In 2006, Allan and his charming wife and business partner, Aida Perez Flamm, made a lifestyle choice and created Aida & Company.

Aida & Company focuses solely on hospitality projects using factory connections made over 30 years and the creative experience gained developing a number of lifestyle looks. Allan is active in the community supporting a number of non-profit organizations and business organizations.

Angel Ramos – Angel is a former Division 1 collegiate and independent minor league baseball player that is now head of the Sports & Entertainment Division of The Bayne Group at Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby’s International Realty. Not just the average real estate professional, Angel expertly connects high-profile clients with discerning properties and real estate investment opportunities.

His name is synonymous with luxury real estate and his personal style and taste certainly exemplify that. He is a member of the Atlanta Board of REALTORS, the National Association of REALTORS and married to the beautiful Faith Ramos.

Stan Mukoro – Style Mentor and founder of MUKORO|BESPOKE. Stan is known to expect excellence. His mission is to draw out the better self within each client aligning the outer appearance with inner substance. Stan believes that style should not be stressful but should become a vehicle of expression an effortless reflection of stature and aspirations. Prior to starting his own company, he broke barriers in management roles at Mercedes-Benz and BMW-USA.

He is a world traveler, a contributing style editor for Vanguard Media's Allure Magazine and a contributing writer for Modern Luxury's The Atlantian Magazine. He currently serves as co-chair of the National Black Arts Festival Fine Art + Fashion initiative and supports several other non-profit organizations. Stan is engaged to be married to the lovely and talented JeNika P. Thomas this spring.

Proceeds from Fine Art + Fashion related events support the National Black Arts Festival's education and public programs including the Children's Education Village, Youth Leadership Initiative, teacher training programs and humanities. For more information or to purchase tickets to the Fourth Annual Fine Art + Fashion VIP reception, runway fashion show and after party on February 25, 2010, log on to www.nbaf.org.